

Bringing People and Jobs Together.5M

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ISSUANCE PY 03-05

Jane English, Executive Director

November 21, 2003

To:

Area Operations Chiefs, ES Regional Supervisors, ES Program

Supervisors, ES Staff, DVOPs, and LVERs

Subject:

Fake Recruiters

- 1. <u>Purpose:</u> To inform all staff of a fraudulent worker recruitment scheme going around, reiterate the need for careful screening of employers before accepting job listings and providing access to other ES services.
- 2. General Information: A recent article in the New York Times reported on a fraudulent worker recruitment scheme at State Labor Department sponsored job fairs in Connecticut, New Jersey, Texas and Wisconsin. Job applicants paid a \$42 \$48 "application fee" to recruiters from a bogus private company "ELS Locators" and filled out pages of sensitive personal information (SSN, credit card and checking account numbers) in exchange for the promise of jobs "in a few days." In addition to participating in the Job Fairs, ELS Locators has contacted State Labor Departments seeking lists of job applicants. "ELS Locators" is under investigation in at least 3 States and there have been two arrests so far. Investigations are underway to determine if the scam was set up solely to collect job recruitment fees or to gain people's personal data for identity theft.
- 3. <u>Action Required:</u> Please notify the appropriate members of your staff regarding the contents of this memorandum and reiterate the need for the careful screening of employers to make sure they are valid before offering services.
- 4. **Inquiries:** Direct any questions concerning this memo to the E S Technical Unit.
- 5. **Expiration Date:** Continuing.